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CUBAN FLASCO:**Scapegoat Is
Not Needed**

THE COLLAPSE of the counter-revolutionary invasion of Cuba not only left official Washington's face red, but it may have led to the strengthening of Castro's hold on the island. Criticism of the invasion and the role the United States played in it has been vocal in this country and abroad. The blame was all the more provoking in that it happened almost within sight of the Continental United States.

For a while, it looked as though there might be a political flareup over the Cuban crisis. Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall had said the Eisenhower Administration planned and directed the American role in the invasion before Eisenhower left office.

Republicans boiled over and demanded that Udall be disciplined by President Kennedy. Whether it was discipline or something else, Udall apologized and Mr. Kennedy reaffirmed that he accepted full responsibility.

Of course, there was no other stand for the President to take. Factually, the planning of the U.S. role began in the Eisenhower Administration. The former President was fully aware of it when he was in office. But since he has been out of office, he has had no contact with the White House regarding Cuban plans.

President Kennedy endorsed the plans — at least, he endorsed the role of the United States — on the basis of information he was furnished under his own Administration. There is no escaping either the responsibility or the direct involvement of the Administration in the plans.

Since the failure of the invasion effort, President Kennedy has taken a firm stand, warning both Khrushchev and Castro that the U.S. will not abandon Cuba to the Reds. In this, he has received the support of leaders of both parties, including former President Eisenhower and former Vice President Nixon, as well as top Democrats.

In the meantime, the Central Intelligence Agency, headed by Allen Dulles, has been criticized for not having more accurate information regarding the situation in Cuba. While the CIA may have fallen down on its job to some extent, it would be unfair to give the agency the lion's share of the blame for the failure of the invasion.

The truth is, something went wrong with the plans of the anti-Castro forces to invade Cuba. To say who was responsible is like trying to answer the question in the old nursery rhyme, "Who Killed Cock Robin?"

Suffice it to say, despite criticism of what may have looked like bungling on the part of some involved in planning the Cuban invasion, the American people are united as never before in their determination to halt the march of Communism in the Western Hemisphere. What the next move will be, remains to be seen. But if Castro and Khrushchev expected to see the American people become divided over the Cuban affair, they have been disappointed. Sometimes it takes a crisis of this sort to demonstrate the essential unity of Americans, regardless of party affiliations.